



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, SACRAMENTO  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
1325 J STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814-2922

October 22, 1998

Environmental Resources Branch

Mr. Wayne White, Field Supervisor  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Sacramento Field Office  
3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 130  
Sacramento, California 95821-6340

Dear Mr. White:

This is our biological assessment (BA) for the proposed restoration work at Prospect Island, California. Prospect Island is located in Solano County between the Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel and Miner Slough (see Figure 1 of enclosure 1). This BA is based on the October 1997 draft EA/IS and subsequent coordination with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The draft EA/IS describes the project and its potential effects on Federally listed and proposed endangered and threatened species which may occur in the project area. The species included in the draft EA/IS were identified in a letter from your office dated July 11, 1997 (Ref# 1-1-97-SP-1647). We have received a subsequent species list from your office in a letter dated April 17, 1998 (Ref# 1-1-98-SP-1150). No additional species have been listed since the April letter.

According to the species list in the April letter, the Federally listed species that may occur within, or be affected by projects within, the USGS Liberty Island and Rio Vista Quads include the American peregrine falcon, Aleutian Canada goose, bald eagle, giant garter snake, California red-legged frog, winter-run chinook salmon and its critical habitat, delta smelt and its critical habitat, Central Valley steelhead, Conservancy fairy shrimp, vernal pool tadpole shrimp, vernal pool fairy shrimp, valley elderberry longhorn beetle, and delta green ground beetle. Federally listed plants that are on the Solano County list and may occur within the project area include Suisun thistle, salt marsh bird's beak, soft bird's beak, Contra Costa goldfields, Solano grass, and Colusa grass. The Federally proposed species include the riparian woodrat, riparian brush rabbit, Central Valley spring-run chinook salmon and its critical habitat, Central Valley fall-run chinook salmon and its critical habitat, and Sacramento splittail. In addition, two candidate species and 41 species of concern were included on your list.

Although breaching of Prospect Island levees at two places may have some minor impact to habitat for listed fish species, it is our biological assessment that the Corps' proposed construction plans would not adversely affect any Federally listed species or critical habitats in the project area, as described in enclosure 1 ("An Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Federally Listed Species That May Result from the Implementation of the Prospect Island Restoration Project"). In fact, we expect the project to be beneficial to delta smelt, Sacramento splittail, Central Valley steelhead, and chinook salmon. However, there is some potential that conditions will exist occasionally within some portions of the restored

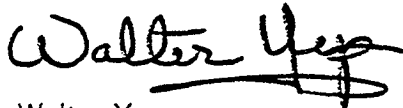
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habitat that may be harmful to these listed species. There is concern that listed species will be exposed to increased rates of predation or to other environmental hazards, such as low dissolved oxygen concentrations. Therefore, a monitoring program (enclosure 2) has been developed by the California Department of Water Resources so that problems can be detected and remedial actions taken. In the process of monitoring, listed species will be taken, which will require that we obtain an incidental take permit. If the monitoring reveals that listed species are being exposed to excessive environmental hazards, corrective actions will be identified and the steps necessary to obtain funding will be taken. We request to enter into Section 7 consultation to obtain incidental take permits for monitoring and to address the plan of action if conditions develop that are harmful to listed species. We will also be entering into consultation with the NMFS.

We have been coordinating with your office regarding this biological assessment. We will continue to provide your office with any assistance or additional information that may expedite this consultation. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Robert Koenigs at (916) 557-6712.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Walter Yep". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "W" and a cursive "Yep".

Walter Yep  
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosures

Copies furnished:

Ms. Stephanie Brady, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, USFWS, 3310 El Camino Ave, Suite 130,  
Sacramento, California 95821

Ms. Collette Zemitis, California Department of Water Resources, Environmental Services Office,  
Monitoring and Analysis Branch, 3251 S Street, Sacramento, California 95816-7017